

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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R 232115Z APR 76Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3606
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1998

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CS
SUBJECT: IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ON MAAGS AND
SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS

REF: STATE 097277

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, I GREATLY VALUE THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH OUR TWO-MAN MILGROUP MAKES TO OUR COUNTRY TEAM AS MILITARY ADVISOR TO ME AND AS MY LIAISON WITH THE COSTA RICAN PUBLIC FORCES ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER MATTERS. MOREOVER, I KNOW THAT THE MILGROUP'S PRESENCE IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE GOCR, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY PRESIDENT ODUBER AND THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY. THIS SMALL, ALMOST TOKEN, MILITARY REPRESENTATION DOES, THEREFORE, MAKE A DISPROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOCR'S PERCEPTION OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA.

2. HAVING SAID THIS, I SEE NO REASON WHY THE SMALL U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATION HERE NEED BE IN THE MILGROUP

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FORMAT PROVIDED AN ALTERNATIVE VEHICLE IS AVAILABLE TO

CONTINUE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS PRESENT ROLE. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, I BELIEVE THAT A RESIDENT DEFENSE ATTACHE WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE, A JUDGMENT REINFORCED BY REFTEL'S INDICATION THAT DEFENSE ATTACHES MAY NOT IN ANY CASE PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS AFTER SEPT. 30, 1977.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL OF ASSIGNING OUR PRESENT MILGROUP PERSONNEL (ONE OFFICER, ONE ENLISTED MAN, AND ONE COSTA RICAN SECRETARY) DIRECTLY TO THIS DIPLOMATIC MISSION WOULD SERVE OUR PURPOSES VERY WELL. LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING THE OFFICE SPACE AND COSTA RICAN PERSONNEL NOW ASSIGNED TO THE MILRLOUP UNDER OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENT, WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. ASSUMING THAT THIS IS FEASIBLE, I WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH ELIMINATING THE MILGROUP AS SUCH BY SEPT. 30, 1976 WITH SIMULTANEOUS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW MILITARY REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION.
TODMAN

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